

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 2, claim 16 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 31, claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 1, and claim 37 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 19. Accordingly, claims 2 and 31 have been canceled, and claim 20 has been amended to depend on claim 1 instead of claim 2. Claims 13, 18-19, and 34-36 have also been canceled.

Further, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to replace “the supports” by “the longitudinally extending supports”, claims 4 and 6 have been amended to replace “the air choke supports” by “the longitudinally extending supports”, claims 13-17 have been amended to replace “air chokes that are affixed to the ends of the profile section by ball and socket bearings” by “air choke supports mounted on ball and socket bearing supports by ball and socket bearings, said ball and socket bearing supports being mounted on the profile sections, and air chokes that are affixed to the ends of the air choke supports”, claims 13 and 14 have further been amended to replace “the supports” by “the air choke supports”, claim 32 has been amended to replace “this central core” by “the central profile section core”, claim 16 has further been amended to replace “over their length” by “over its length”, claims 21 and 30 have been amended to replace “ball and socket bearing(s)” by “ball and socket bearing support(s)”, claim 24 has been amended to replace “section core” by “central profile section core”, and claims 25 and 28 have been amended to replace “are the same” by “have cross-sections with same shapes and dimensions”.

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-17, 20-30, 32-33 and 37 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 12,

14-19, 26, and 37 are the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 12 and 15 are allowed, and claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, 20, 22, 25-28 and 31-33, as well as claims 14, 17 and 37, are considered to contain allowable subject matter.

However, in the Office Action, claims 1-10, 13-14, 16-17, 20-23 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. It is alleged in the Office Action that “the supports” in claims 1 and 5 is unclear, that “the air choke supports” in claims 4 and 6, “the supports” in claims 13 and 14, and “this central core” in claim 32 lack antecedent basis, that the phrase “air chokes that are affixed to the ends of the profile section by ball and socket bearings” in claims 16 and 17 is apparently incorrect, that “their” should be “its” in claim 16, that “ball and socket bearing(s)” should be “ball and socket bearing support(s)” in claims 21, 30, and 36, that “section core” should be “central core” in claim 24, and that the expression “are the same” in claims 25 and 28 is unclear.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended as set forth in introduction to address each of the items indicated in the rejection substantially as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claim 1 (now incorporating the subject matter of claim 2), claims 3-11, 20-25 and 29-30 (dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1), independent claims 12 and 14-15, independent claim 16 (now incorporating the subject matter of claim 31), independent claim 17, independent claim 26, claims 27-28 (dependent directly or indirectly on claim 26), and claims 32-33 (dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1), are now immediately allowable.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,152,566 to Blatt (Blatt'566), and claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 13, 16, 21, 23-24, 29-30, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Blatt'566 in view of US 4,685,714 to Hoke (Hoke). In particular, it is alleged in the Office Action that Hoke discloses a construction with air chokes adjustably mounted on profile sections which are adjustably mounted on a central core, so that it would have been obvious to adapt this construction to add a central core in Blatt'566.

As discussed above, since claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 2, claim 16 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 31, and claims 13, 18-19, and 34-36 have been canceled, these rejections are moot.

Lastly, in the Office Action, the drawings are objected to. It is indicated that two marked-up versions of the amended drawings have been submitted instead of one "clean" version and one marked-up version. Further, it is alleged that reference numbers 10 and 20 have been used both for the axes of symmetry in Figs. 2 and 3 and for the grooves in Fig. 3, and that reference numbers 50 and 60 are shown on Fig. 4 but are not mentioned in the specification.

Applicant's representative apologizes for the error. A replacement sheet for Figs. 2-4 without informal markings and without the reference numbers 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 in rectangular boxes is being submitted with this paper, along with a marked-up version showing the changes made. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

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Group Art Unit: 3652

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encls.: Replacement Sheet of Drawings w/Marked-Up Version

